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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/842,744	04/25/2001	Alex Ka Tim Poon	PA0253/11269.32	7374

7590

09/13/2002

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EXAMINER

BROWN, KHALED

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2851

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/842,744

Applicant(s)

POON, ALEX KA TIM

Examiner

Khaled Brown

Art Unit

2851

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-44 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,7,8,13-17,22-28,33-37,39 and 42-44 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5,6,9-12,18-21,29-32,38,40 and 41 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

Claims 1-4,7,8,13-17,22-28,33-37,39 and 42-44 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tokushima et al (US 6328473).

Re clm 1: An exposure apparatus for transferring an image onto a device, the exposure apparatus (Fig 9) comprising: a stage (75) that retains the device (W); and a chamber assembly that encircles the device and provides a device chamber around the device (Col 10 lines 20-22 "high vacuum chamber" and "drive shafts"), the chamber assembly including a fixed section ("high vacuum chamber"), a moving section (Col 9 line 65 "drive shaft") that moves relative to the fixed section, and a seal assembly that seals an intersection between the fixed section and the moving section during movement of the moving section (inherent since the chamber is a hermetically sealed high vacuum chamber Col 10 lines 20-21).

Re clm 2: stage mover assembly (77)

Re clm 3: the moving section moves concurrently with the stage (Col 9 lines 60-65).

Re clm 4,16: the moving section is secured to the stage (inherent since the drive shaft causes the stage to move back and forth).

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Re clm 7,8,22,23: the stage mover assembly is positioned outside the device chamber (Fig 9, 77 is outside the device chamber)

Re clm 13,14,24,25: a device and wafer (Col 1 line 19 "semiconductor devices")

Re clm 15: An exposure apparatus for transferring an image onto a device, the exposure apparatus (Fig 9) comprising: a stage (75) that retains the device (W); a stage mover assembly (77) that moves the stage; and a chamber assembly that encircles the device and provides a device chamber around the device (Col 10 lines 20-22 "high vacuum chamber" and "drive shafts"), the chamber assembly including a moving section that moves substantially concurrently with the stage (Col 9 line 65 "drive shaft").

Re clm 17: the chamber assembly includes a fixed section ("high vacuum chamber") and a seal assembly that seals an intersection between the fixed section and the moving section during movement of the moving section (inherent since the chamber is a hermetically sealed high vacuum chamber Col 10 lines 20-21).

Re clms 26,27,28,33,34,35,36,37,39,42,43,44: The above disclosed apparatus is capable of performing the claimed method steps of claims 26,27,28, 33,34, 35, 36, 37, 39,42,43 and 44.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 5,6,9,10,11,12,18,19,20,21,29,30,31,32,38,40 and 41 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest the claimed structure of the invention or provide the structure needed to perform the claimed method steps.


Note: no IDS has been filed in this case.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khaled Brown whose telephone number is 703-306-5738. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Russell E. Adams can be reached on 703-308-2847. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.

KB
September 10, 2002


RUSSELL ADAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800